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TWENTY-SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PHILADELPHIA

FEMALE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

PHILADELPHIA:
MERRIHEW & THOMPSON, PRINTERS,
Merchant street, above Fourth.
1856.

OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

PRESIDENT,

SARAH PUGH.

VICE PRESIDENT,

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1856

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REPORT.

The Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society celebrates, to-day, its twenty-second anniversary. Of its twenty-two years of conflict with American slavery, none has been marked by more memorable events, or more encouraging signs of the times, than that which we have just closed. It is not in the indifference or apathy of their opponents, that the soldiers of a moral warfare see tokens of their own power and speedy success. It is when their enemy sounds his alarm, gathers all his forces and girds up himself for the fight, that they know that their weapons have been effectively used, that their strength is felt and feared. The hostile powers of Liberty and Slavery in this nation, have, at last, met face to face, in open war; a war which is to cease only in the complete victory of one or the other. One of their most conspicuous battle-fields is, just now, our Congressional House of Representatives. There, where the usurping slave power has long reigned, with an almost absolute despotism, the spirit of Liberty has suddenly entered the temple consecrated to her worship, and sternly demanded her legitimate sovereignty. The astonished usurper has rallied his forces for the defense of his long-established sway, and the champions of

Liberty are fighting manfully in her behalf. During the last two months, the novel spectacle has been presented to the world, of a nation unable to organize its government, because, divided against itself, it could not decide whether that government should be the support and defense of the Freedom of the people, or of the tyranny of an oligarchy. God be thanked that it has come to this! That the long struggle of many years, the incessant labors, the earnest pleading with the nation's heart, the unseen influences, the obscure agencies, busily at work at the fireside and by the wayside, have, at last, accomplished this result, that the American people are aroused to take sides in this conflict, that the nation's capital is its arena, and the wheels of the government stood still, awaiting its decision.

And we have more than this for which to give thanks to-day. A triumph, unprecedented in our warfare, has been won by the hosts of Freedom, a triumph so important in its significance, that we joyously hail it as a sure token of our complete and final victory. The long contest for the Speakership of our National House of Representatives is ended, and the prize is won for Freedom. We may well pause, in the heat of our conflict, for the utterance of devout thanksgiving, and for the glad shout of acclamation ; for such a defeat of the Slave Power, in its stronghold, was never witnessed before. And never was a nation engaged in a more momentous struggle than that which this people must soon decide. It concerns the nation's life. In the form which it took at Washington, during the last two

months, it was not a mere question of political partizanship of either men or measures; it was not the struggle of a faction for temporary success and short-lived power, though as such, only, it may be regarded by the thoughtless and superficial. But, underneath the stormy surface of that contest, there lay a *principle*, firm and solid as ocean's bed, and on this immovable foundation stood the feet of the *earnest* warriors in this strange war. They, on whichever side they were ranged, know that it was for no trifling cause that they kept the nation waiting and wondering so long. They know that the names for which they persistently and untiringly cast their ballots, were not names of men, but the two great, overshadowing names of LIBERTY and SLAVERY.

Another field of this conflict, where other weapons than ballots are sometimes used, is that portion of our Western Territory, upon which, a year ago, the Slave-Power laid its all-grasping hand, never dreaming of successful resistance to its will. The consequences of victory to either party, in the border war of Kansas, will be much more than the existence or non-existence of slavery in that Territory. The question there, as at Washington, is that vital question, whether Slavery or Liberty shall be dominant in our land.

As we watch with intense interest this conflict, as we look on the hosts mustering in the defense of Liberty, gathered from all parties, all sects, all classes of the North, moved by various impulses and principles, more or less disinterested, pure, and high; and remember, as

we can well remember, the earliest days of the Anti-Slavery enterprise, when its advocates, few in number, obscure in station, and weak in influence, save through the might of the truth they spoke, addressed themselves to the work of abolishing American Slavery, and soon found the combined strength of the religious, the political and the commercial world arrayed against them, we may truly say, "If it had not been the Lord, who was on our side, when men rose up against us, then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us." "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." The once slumbering nation slumbers no longer; thousands of freemen who were unmoved by outrages on their brother's rights, are thoroughly alarmed for their own liberties, and the cool and patient North, at last, seems to be approaching the point where she will say to her haughty southern master, "Thus far hast thou gone, but no farther shalt thou go."

In a review of the events of the year, which have been of especial interest to this Society, and have formed a part of the Anti-Slavery history of Philadelphia, the imprisonment of Passmore Williamson has a prominent place. The thrilling facts of that case, so important in its bearing on our cause, so honorable to the man who accounted it a small thing that the path of rectitude led to a prison, so disgraceful to the city of Philadelphia, which, absorbed in the pursuit of wealth, could discern nothing higher, nobler or more precious, than successful commerce, have been too carefully narrated and too widely published to require a full detail in this report.

It is, now, well-known on both sides of the Atlantic, and will long be remembered, to the shame of this Commonwealth, that in July, 1855, an effort was made to assert the legality of slavery on the soil of Pennsylvania. The person who first appears in the transaction is John H. Wheeler, U. S. Minister to Nicaragua, who attempted to pass through the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, on his way thither, carrying with him three slaves, whom, under the laws of Virginia, he held, in that State, as property. In the city of Philadelphia, his illegal purpose was frustrated by Passmore Williamson, Secretary of the Acting Committee of the "Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and for the Relief of Free Negroes unlawfully held in bondage, and for improving the condition of the African Race," William Still, clerk of the Anti-Slavery Office, and a few others, who, in the faithful performance of their duty of guarding the interests of persons illegally or legally held in bondage, informed Mr. Wheeler's victims that the laws of Pennsylvania protected their right to freedom, and that they might, safely, go where they pleased. Thus assured, the woman, Jane Johnson, took possession of her own person, and her own children; and the indignation of the baffled slaveholder was spent on the true-hearted men who had thus nobly come between him and his prey. On application to Judge Kane, of the District Court of the United States, the writ of habeas corpus was issued, commanding Passmore Williamson to produce the bodies of Jane Johnson and her two children.

Thus, for the first time in our national history, was the writ of habeas corpus, which was framed, and had, hitherto, ever been sacredly regarded, as the bulwark of personal freedom, perverted to the uses of slavery, issued for the purpose, as subsequent events proved, of reducing free persons to slavery. Passmore Williamson refused to do what was, on his part, physically and morally, impossible; and, for this refusal, was imprisoned in the Philadelphia County jail, on a charge of contempt of Court. For three months he endured this illegal incarceration, so honorable to himself, so disgraceful to his persecutors, during which time, the petty despot who had immured him in a felon's cell, in the hope of compelling him to "make terms with the Court," explicitly intimated that the prisoner had only the alternative before him, of concession or hopeless imprisonment. Yet on the third day of November, he was again brought before Judge Kane, and on the reiteration of the statements of his original return to the writ of habeas corpus, the very statements on which the charge was based, he was, forthwith, set at liberty. However strange such conduct may appear, on the part of a grave Judge, it is, by no means, inexplicable. The supple tools of the Slave Power but do their master's bidding, whether it be in the opening or shutting of prison doors, and, like other submissive slaves, they stop not to ask if their actions will make them the laughing-stock of the world.

Mr. Williamson was not the only person upon whom Mr. Wheeler sought to revenge his defeat. He obtained a warrant for the arrest of Isaiah Moore, William Custis,

John Ballard, James Martin and James S. Braddock, all of whom were held to bail by Alderman James B. Freeman, in the excessive sum of $7000 each, to answer to the charge of high robbery! inciting to riot! riot! and assault and battery. In default of bail, they were committed to prison. This excessive bail was afterwards reduced by Judge Kelly. On the 7th of August, Mr. Wheeler laid his complaint before the Grand Jury, and the result was an indictment for riot and assault and battery, against these five persons, and also against Passmore Williamson and Wm. Still. On the 29th Aug. they were all, excepting Mr. Williamson, put upon their trial on these charges, in the Court of Quarter Sessions, in Philadelphia, Judge Kelly presiding. Mr. Wheeler was the principal witness for the prosecution. He testified upon his oath, that Mr. Williamson and Mr. Still endeavored to persuade the woman, Jane Johnson, to leave him, that she replied to their urgent solicitations, that she wished to be free, "but did not want to leave her master;" and that she and her children were seized by the defendants, and carried from the steamboat on which they had embarked, with him, for New York. The principal witness for the defense was Jane Johnson herself, who, at some peril to her liberty, had willingly returned to Philadelphia, to aid, by her testimony, those who had risked so much in order to secure it. Wheeler and his allies were amazed and confused by the sudden appearance of one whom they had not supposed would dare to confront them in the city of Philadelphia, and they felt no relief, when she positively testified upon oath,

that she had not been forcibly taken from Mr. Wheeler's custody, but had left him freely, and in pursuance of a previous determination to obtain her freedom, whenever it should be in her power to do so. Notwithstanding the protection which the *laws* of Pennsylvania proffered to Jane Johnson, her friends, knowing well that the Slave Power heeds no law, of man or God, which contravenes its will, had made special provision for her defense against the ruffian force which would probably be employed to kidnap her. It was a trying hour for the heroic woman who had dared so much, and was willing to dare still more, for the assertion of her own freedom, and for the sake of her deliverers; and scarcely less trying for those who clustered around her, strong in woman's sympathy and manhood's indignation for her wrongs, resolved to dare and suffer with her. She was attended, in the Court room, by the President of this Society, and several of its members. All these ladies will testify to the calm bearing and firm courage of this emancipated slave-mother, in that hour of jeopardy to her newly-found freedom. Protected, while in the Court room, by the firmness and energy of Judge Kelly and District Attorney Mann, the danger apprehended was of her egress from the State House, and her passage through our streets. A conflict between the United States officers, eager for her arrest, and our State officers, zealous for the vindication of Pennsylvania law, was anticipated, and as she was conducted from the room, the anxiety of those who accompanied her, and her friends who remained, was most intense. But the

energy of the Judge and the State officers, aided by an adroit manœuvre of the District Attorney, in arranging for the egress of the party in a direction opposite to that in which they were expected, baffled the watch-dogs of Slavery, and Jane Johnson was borne in safety and in triumph away. It was at this point of her thrilling experience, that a door, which was never closed to the homeless slave, was opened for her reception. Brief shelter and help in eluding pursuit, being furnished her, she was rapidly borne on her way to a place of greater security; and other homes, on whose thresholds the footsteps of the fugitive slave are ever welcome, received her.

The result of the trial, in which she had been so important a witness, was a verdict of "not guilty," as to all the parties, on the charge of riot. On the charge of assault, Ballard and Custis were found "guilty," and sentenced to pay five or ten dollars each, and the costs of prosecution, and to be imprisoned during one week. The others were acquitted.

The excitement produced by these events, and especially, by the continued imprisonment of Passmore Williamson, spread not only through Pennsylvania, but over all the North. The legal profession generally denounced the act of his imprisonment as a violation of law, and a trampling on the rights of the citizen. The best presses of the North joined in this denunciation. Thousands of his fellow-citizens, from the East and West, came thronging to the prison cell of Passmore Williamson, as to a temple of Liberty, and laying upon

its altar the best offering they could bring, new vows of fealty to the RIGHT, bore away to their distant homes, memories and influences which will not die until they have undermined the power of despotism. In Philadelphia and its vicinity, numerous meetings were held, where this judicial outrage was freely discussed and sternly denounced. But this healthful indignation against tyranny pervaded the country far more thoroughly than it did the city of Philadelphia, where, as in other commercial cities, "the interests of trade," or the projects of ambitious politicians, are "endangered" by the free utterance of a freeman's thoughts. The actors in this memorable drama will take their true places in history, and we may safely leave the recreant Judge of the United States District Court to the notoriety of infamy to which he is doomed, until he escapes from it into oblivion. That small portion of our city press, which in this time of trial, stood boldly by the Law, and for the Right, will be honorably remembered in time to come. In such connection should be mentioned the names of "The Sun," "The Daily Times," and the "Sunday Despatch;" while to a very different category must be referred the names of "The Pennsylvanian," and "The Public Ledger," which found their pleasure or their interest in catering to the most corrupt public sentiment, and in insulting the noble Williamson in his prison. Perhaps we should not be surprised at the latter exercise of their editorial talent, when we remember that they were following the example of grave judges of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

How this struggle between State Rights, and usurpations of the Federal power, is to be determined, in Pennsylvania, and in other Northern States where it is, now, fairly commenced, time will reveal. Meanwhile we are happy in being able to state that the immediate effect of this summary infliction of vengeance upon Passmore Williamson, was not such as was probably hoped for by the minions of slavery. An evidence that northern citizens were not thereby deterred from the performance of their duty in similar cases, was found in the fact that, soon after the rescue of Jane Johnson, a slave brought into Philadelphia, by her mistress, obtained her liberty, by the aid of a lady, resident in this city, who informed her that, by the laws of Pennsylvania, she was a free woman.

Of these important events of the past year, this Association has taken due cognizance. Its remonstrance against the unprecedented outrage upon liberty and law, in the Williamson case, was fully expressed in a series of resolutions, unanimously adopted at its stated meeting in September. In the efforts to arouse our community to a sense of personal responsibility respecting it, and to the dangers with which it threatened the liberties of every citizen, which were made by the holding of public meetings, in the city and adjacent country, this Society was represented by its members. Its labors, in other departments, have been similar to those of former years. The most arduous of these, is our Annual Fair, that well tried measure, no longer an experiment, for raising funds, for the promotion of our cause in this

State. The success of the Fair of 1855, was highly encouraging, and its Committee of Arrangements recommend to the Society a renewal of such labor, during this year, with much hopefulness. The principal part of the money obtained by the Fair, is placed at the disposal of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, in which Committee this Society is numerously represented. Our funds are used in the dissemination of anti-slavery principles, by means of Lectures, Tracts, Newspapers, public Meetings for discussion, etc. etc. We have transferred our subscription for fifty copies of the Pennsylvania Freeman, to the National Anti-Slavery Standard, and have continued our usual subscription for the Liberator, the Anti-Slavery Bugle, and the London Anti-Slavery Advocate.

Among the signs of the times, we may record the rapidly increasing number of fugitive slaves who pass, almost daily, through this city, on their way to a land where their freedom will be protected by law. As a restraint upon this kind of emigration, the Fugitive Slave Bill of 1850 has certainly proved a signal failure. The number of successful escapes of slaves has steadily increased since it was enacted, though doubtless, some free-born men and women have been kidnapped under it, and many more, terror-stricken by its promulgation, have fled from their homes, seeking retreats of greater security, or have passed their days in tormenting fear of its power. The enormous insolence and wickedness embodied in this statute aroused, throughout the North, much latent anti-slavery feeling, and such has been the

reaction, that the most sagacious champions of the slave power perceive, too late, that it was a blunder. So, as time rolls on, they will see that the same confusion and folly presided over all their plans for the defense of that which is indefensible, and for the perpetuity of a system upon which rests the curse of God. The Fugitive Slave Bill is one of a series of aggressions on the rights of Northern freemen, for the protection of Southern Slavery, each of which aggressions has elicited opposition and remonstrance, and all of which have at last awakened a voice of indignation, which has made the imperious slave power tremble in its strongest citadel. In the blindness of its fury, it is clutching every weapon of attack or defense within its reach, and striking bold, though reckless, blows in every quarter. It now demands of the North, from whom it has long been accustomed to receive submission, the right of transit for slaveholders carrying their slaves, *as their property*, through the Free States. Denying that slavery is the creature of local legislation, and contradicting the highest legal authorities on the subject, which declare that whenever the slave passes from under the jurisdiction of the special statute which enslaves him, he comes under the common law, which protects his natural right to liberty, and his chains fall from him, the South demands that every Northern State shall be made a slaveholding State whenever a slaveholder shall choose to travel in it, with his slaves, and that during his travels, the laws of Virginia or Georgia, determining *what is property*, shall be paramount to the laws of Penn-

sylvania or Massachusetts, on their own soil. How long a period of time may be occupied in this transit, and what features of the peculiar institution they may display before freemen, are not distinctly set forth in this new demand, but if it is granted, and the slaveholder allowed to travel through the free States, *under the property laws of his own*, then we may yet see chained coffles of slaves driven through the streets of Philadelphia, and hear the shrieks wrung from women by the torture of "moderate correction." Northern freemen will look this matter in the face, before they make this new concession to the arrogance of Slavery. We regret the fact that the Judiciary Committee of our Legislature have disgraced themselves, and, so far as they represent Pennsylvania, have disgraced her, by their recent report in favor of this right of transit, a report as unsound in logic as it is in morals. From such disgrace three of the Committee have saved themselves, and reflected some portion of honor upon their State, by protesting, in a minority report, against the doctrine that this right belongs to the South, and should be conceded, and against the reasonings by which the doctrine is supported.

In the review of such a year as the past has been, there is so much to strengthen the faith and hope of the abolitionist, so much to awaken thanksgiving and rejoicing, that we may be tempted to believe that our labor is well nigh done, that the toil and the conflict have passed into other hands, and that nothing remains for us to do, but to look on the battle for a little while longer, and join the shout of victory at its close.

This is truly a novel temptation for those who have known the days when to bear the anti-slavery name was a reproach, and to live the life of an abolitionist was to put in peril property and life, yet it is none the less real on that account. Adversity and persecution strengthen the true-hearted in a good cause, but when that cause attains popularity, sits in the chair of state, and is honored among men, then should its advocates be especially wary that they compromise no iota of principle, and that they desert not their posts of duty, in the hope that they will be occupied by others. The strong and rushing tide of anti-slavery sentiment, now setting southward, and which, if it stay not in its course will overwhelm and utterly destroy American Slavery, was put in motion by the long and arduous labors of abolitionists, and if those labors prematurely cease, that tide will ebb. Political parties indicate the moral sentiment of a people; they never create it. They will serve a moral reform, when the principles of that reform have pervaded the heart of the nation, but the agencies which have kept those principles active in the people's conscience, and warm in the people's heart, cannot be, for a moment, safely remitted. The path of our duty never lay more plain and straight before us, than it does to-day, when, with the opening of a new era in our nation's history, we commence a new year of our Society's existence. Joyous as we are over victories won, hopeful as we are of that jubilee morning, the dawn of which we already see, we still have our old work to do, of uttering the truth in yet unwilling ears. The well-

tried weapons of a twenty years warfare, we may not yet lay down, the banner unfurled by the American Anti-Slavery Society, bearing the inscription, "IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL EMANCIPATION TO EVERY SLAVE;" and "No UNION WITH SLAVEHOLDERS;" must still be borne aloft by the hands which first upraised it.

In this dawning of a brighter day for our enterprise, we remember those who shared our earlier conflicts, and who, one after another, have fallen by our side, "with their last breath crying, 'Onward!' and their hands upon their swords." We miss them, in our rejoicings into which they would so heartily have entered. Each year adds to the number of these precious memories. The last has borne from us one whose earnest and self-sacrificing devotion to the anti-slavery cause was an example to us while living, and who, being dead, yet speaketh. Early consecrated to that cause, the dew of youth and the strength of manhood were joyfully given to its service, and though he passed away in his early prime, he beautifully illustrated the truth, that fullness of life is not measured by length of days. As an able and efficient lecturer and editor, and as a most faithful and untiring laborer in the anti-slavery field, CYRUS M. BURLEIGH will long be remembered by American abolitionists.

In concluding our last Annual Report, at a period when clouds darkened our horizon, and the success of our opponents seemed to mock our efforts, we renewed the confession of our faith in the fundamental principles

of our enterprise, and expressed our confidence in their final triumph. In view of what a year has brought forth, we may surely address ourselves most cheerfully to future labor. To our faith we have added experience, and of our experience is born new hope. There is to be many a hard fought battle yet, ere American Slavery is overthrown, but the nation is marshaling itself for those conflicts, as it has never done before. The signs of the times betoken that the Spirit of Freedom, now roused in the North, will not only forbid the extension of slavery into new territory, but will rest not, day or night, until it has driven it from outpost and citadel, utterly broken its power, and banished it from our land.

> "And when the Truth its perfect work hath done,
> And rich with blessings o'er our land hath gone;
> When not a slave beneath his yoke shall pine,
> From broad Potomac to the far Sabine;
> When unto angel lips at last is given
> The silver trump of Jubilee in Heaven;
> And from Virginia's plains—Kentucky's shades,
> And through the dim Floridian everglades,
> Rises, to meet that angel-trumpet's sound,
> The voice of millions from their chains unbound;"

then, joining in those jubilant strains on earth, or watching, from the spirit-land, the long-desired consummation of our labors, we will exclaim, "Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name be the glory!"

Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society in account with
M. A. GRISCOM, *Treasurer.*

1855.	DR.		
	To Subscription to N. A. S. Standard 50 copies,		$100 00
	" " Liberator,	10 "	25 00
	" " A. S. Bugle,	10 "	15 00
	" " A. S. Advocate,		5 00
4 mo.	" Bill for printing Annnal Report,		18 75
	" Donation to American A. S. Society,		100 00
	" Bill for Printing,		8 00
	" Donation to Penn. A. S. Society,		1,200 00
2mo. 14, 1856.	Balance in Treasury,		1,112 43
			$2,584 18

1855.	CR.	
2 mo.	By Balance on hand,	$663 41
	Sale of Articles from Fair of 1854,	20 25
	" Annual Subscriptions,	88 00
	" Legacy from Phebe Jackson,	200 00
12 mo.	" Proceeds of Fair,	1,604 90
	" Sale of Sundries since the Fair,	7 62
		$2,584 18

MARGARET J. BURLEIGH, *Auditor.*

REPORT

OF THE

TWENTIETH PENNSYLVANIA ANTI-SLAVERY FAIR.

The Twentieth Anti-Slavery Fair of Pennsylvania was held in the large Saloon of the Assembly Buildings, on the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of December.

The Receipts, ...	$2,279 46
Expenses, ...	675 21*
	$1,604 25

There were Five Tables abundantly supplied by contributions from the city. The tables from Germantown, Camden, Mullica Hill, Bristol, Makefield, Byberry and Chester County were generously filled.

Donations were received from Norristown, Downingtown, Kimberton, Salem, Wilmington, Pawtucket, R. I., Nantucket, Mass., and Bristol, England.

The addresses of Wm. Lloyd Garrison and Charles C. Burleigh, on Thursday and Friday evenings, added interest and profit to the Fair, which was throughout one of great pleasure and attraction.

The close of this, the Twentieth Annual Fair, presents a fitting period to review the past. The first of these efforts was commenced in 1835, by a very few laborers who felt abundantly paid for their exertions in realizing the sum of three hundred dollars. At that time, and for several subsequent years, limited contributions were displayed in very small rooms, procured with difficulty from the unwillingness of the owners to be identified with an

* $200 of the amount of Expenses is a loan which has been refunded to the Female Anti-Slavery Society.

odious cause. At one period, the Anti-Slavery Office was the only place to be obtained in which to display the collections of the devoted few, who, clustering together in this narrow apartment, cheered each other to the work before them, of rousing an apathetic nation to a consciousness of their deep and deadly sin, in enslaving their brother man. In course of time, an inconvenient upper room was obtained in the Assembly Buildings. Then a beautiful Saloon on the second floor, and now, for a number of years, large and elegant Rooms, for which $50 a day are paid, are required to accommodate the contributions and the crowds who throng thither to make purchases and to enjoy the social attractions of the occasion, manifesting a devotedness that doubtless will increase in force and earnestness till "Liberty shall be proclaimed throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

In view of this continued growth, we feel warranted in the belief that the Annual Fairs have been, and that they will continue to be, an important aid in our labors for the emancipation of the slave, and we earnestly recommend renewed and increasing efforts in this branch of anti-slavery work.

On behalf of the Committee,

SARAH PUGH,
MARGARET J. BURLEIGH.

Philadelphia, December 29th, 1855.

Since the close of the Fair very acceptable donations have been received from Leeds, England.

APPENDIX.

At a meeting of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society, held March 8th, 1855, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That, by the death of CYRUS M. BURLEIGH, the Americna Abolitionists have lost a most valuable and faithful fellow-laborer, whose earnest and self-sacrificing devotedness to the Anti-Slavery cause, for many years, has strengthened their hands in their arduous work.

Resolved, That, in the consecration of youth and manhood to a holy, but unpopular reform, and in the fidelity with which he redeemed his early pledge of fealty to it, he has left a noble example to his coadjutors, who deeply deplore the loss which they have sustained in his death.

At a Meeting of the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society, held Sept. 13th, 1855, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, Since we last assembled together, our city, our State, and our nation, have been deeply disgraced by the illegal imprisonment of PASSMORE WILLIAMSON, by Judge Kane, on a charge of contempt of Court, in a case where he had no jurisdiction, and where the only offense of the prisoner was the exercise of his right, and the performance of his duty, in informing a free woman, once a slave, that, by the laws of Pennsylvania, she was made free; and,

Whereas, The Judges of the Supreme Court of the State of Pennsylvania have added to this disgrace, by refusing (by a vote of four to one) to grant a writ of habeas corpus to the said Passmore Williamson ; and, in thus refusing, have not only daringly violated the plainly expressed and well understood law of habeas corpus, but, casting off the decent dignity appropriate to their office, have, also, impugned the motives and insulted the feelings of their noble prisoner ; therefore,

Resolved, That we regard this act of Judge Kane's as a tyrannical usurpation of power, a bold defiance of the laws of Pennsylvania, an alarming invasion of State Rights, a precedent dangerous to the personal liberty of every citizen of the State, and a contemptible prostration of a Northern freeman before the altar of Southern Slavery.

Resolved, That in the conduct of the Bench of Judges of the Supreme Court of this State, in striking down that defense of liberty, the habeas corpus, we see lamentable evidence of the sub-

serviency of Pennsylvania to her slave masters in the South, and of the alarming extent to which the evil influences of slavery have permeated the political and social institutions of the North, deteriorating the moral character, and impairing the moral sense of our citizens.

Resolved, That while we thus condemn and deplore this decision of the Bench, we record all honor to Judge KNOX, whose name will be held in grateful remembrance, by posterity, as that of one who, "faithful found among the faithless," ably and eloquently pronounced righteous judgment, in opposition to all his associates.

Resolved, That the general apathy of our various religious denominations, in view of these outrages which have been prepetrated in their midst, is another evidence of the deep corruption and hypocrisy of the American church, which, while it arouses alarm and indignation, must, also, excite inexpressible grief in every truly Christian heart.

Resolved, That the true courage and Christian fortitude, the noble willingness to suffer in a righteous cause, and for the sake of his country's well-being, and the elevation of his race, manifested by Passmore Williamson, in this crisis, demand the admiration and high esteem of his fellow-countrymen ; and that we hereby assure him of our hearty sympathy in the sacrifice and suffering by which he is now most effectually serving the Anti-Slavery cause.

Resolved, That we proffer the expression of our warmest sympathy to the wife of our imprisoned friend, who bravely shares with him this persecution for righteousness' sake ; and, in the name of the slave mothers and wives, on Southern plantations, whose deeper anguish calls on her for succor, and in the name of our country, whose dearest rights and liberties are in imminent peril, we do beseech her to falter not in this stern trial, but, with all the strength and devotion of woman's heart, to minister to the fortitude and heroism of her high-souled husband.

Resolved, That these startling scenes, enacted in our midst, solemnly call upon *us* to examine the basis of our faith, and the strength of our principles, and to cherish a supreme and unflinching devotion to Truth and to Right, that we may be found faithful to Humanity and to God, when the time of *our* trial shall suddenly come, and the shadow of a prison fall across *our* pathway.

SARAH PUGH, *Pres't.*

HANNAH L. STICKNEY, *Rec. Sec.*
MARY GREW, *Cor. Sec.*